

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. 10/623,051  
Applicant(s): GUNTHER MICHAEL, ET AL.  
Filed: July 18, 2003  
TC/A.U. 1712  
Examiner: Daniel S. Metzmaier  
Title: HYDROPHOBIC SILICA

Confirmation No.: 3961

Docket No.: 032301.0901  
Customer No.: 25461

DECLARATION

NOW COMES GUNTHER MICHAEL, one of the applicants in the above-identified application and states as follows:

My CV is attached hereto.

The pyrogenica silicas that are produced in accordance with the invention in this patent application are built up of small round particles which form aggregates.

It is the aggregates which are responsible for the desired thickening action which is described in this application.

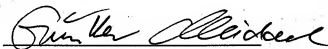
If the aggregates were to be milled in a ball mill such as shown in the references cited by the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, the structure of the silica aggregates would be destroyed and the thickening action would be severely reduced or entirely lost.

In accordance with the present invention, we have discovered that the use of a roller compactor or a belt filter press for compacting the silicas does not destroy the structure of the silica aggregates.

As a result of the process described in the present application involving the use of a roller compactor or a belt filter press, good dispersability, together with the required degree of compaction, is achieved.

I, GÜNTHER MICHAEL, hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this declaration is directed.

Date: 25. Nov. 2006

  
Günther Michael